

DECKER ADDITION PWS 3380004 SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT FINAL REPORT

December 7, 2000



State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

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Executive Summary

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996, all states are required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to assess every source of public drinking water for its relative sensitivity to contaminants regulated by the act. This assessment is based on a land use inventory of the designated assessment area, sensitivity factors associated with the wells, and aquifer characteristics.

This report, *Source Water Assessment for the Decker Addition, Idaho*, describes the public drinking water system, the boundaries of the zones of water contribution, and the associated potential contaminant sources located within these boundaries. This assessment should be used as a planning tool, taken into account with local knowledge and concerns, to develop and implement appropriate protection measures for this source. **The results should not be used as an absolute measure of risk and they should not be used to undermine public confidence in the water system.**

The Decker Addition drinking water system consists of one well. If necessary the City of Payette drinking water system can be used as a backup supply of drinking water. No contamination problems have been detected for this system.

This assessment should be used as a basis for determining appropriate new protection measures or re-evaluating existing protection efforts. No matter what ranking a source receives, protection is always important. Whether the source is currently located in a “pristine” area or an area with numerous industrial and/or agricultural land uses that require education and surveillance, the way to ensure good water quality in the future is to act now to protect valuable water supply resources.

For the Decker Addition drinking water system, source water protection activities should focus on implementation of practices aimed at minimizing the potential impact of land use activities taking place in the immediate vicinity of the wellhead that are within the jurisdiction of the Decker Addition. Most of the designated areas are outside the direct jurisdiction of the Decker Addition. Partnerships and coordination with the City of Payette and other local agencies and industry groups regarding protection activities should be established and are critical to success. Due to the time involved with the movement of ground water, source water protection activities should be aimed at long-term management strategies even though these strategies may not yield results in the near term.

A community with a fully-developed source water protection program will incorporate many strategies. For assistance in developing protection strategies, please contact the Boise Regional Office of the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality or the Idaho Rural Water Association.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT FOR DECKER ADDITION, IDAHO

Section 1. Introduction - Basis for Assessment

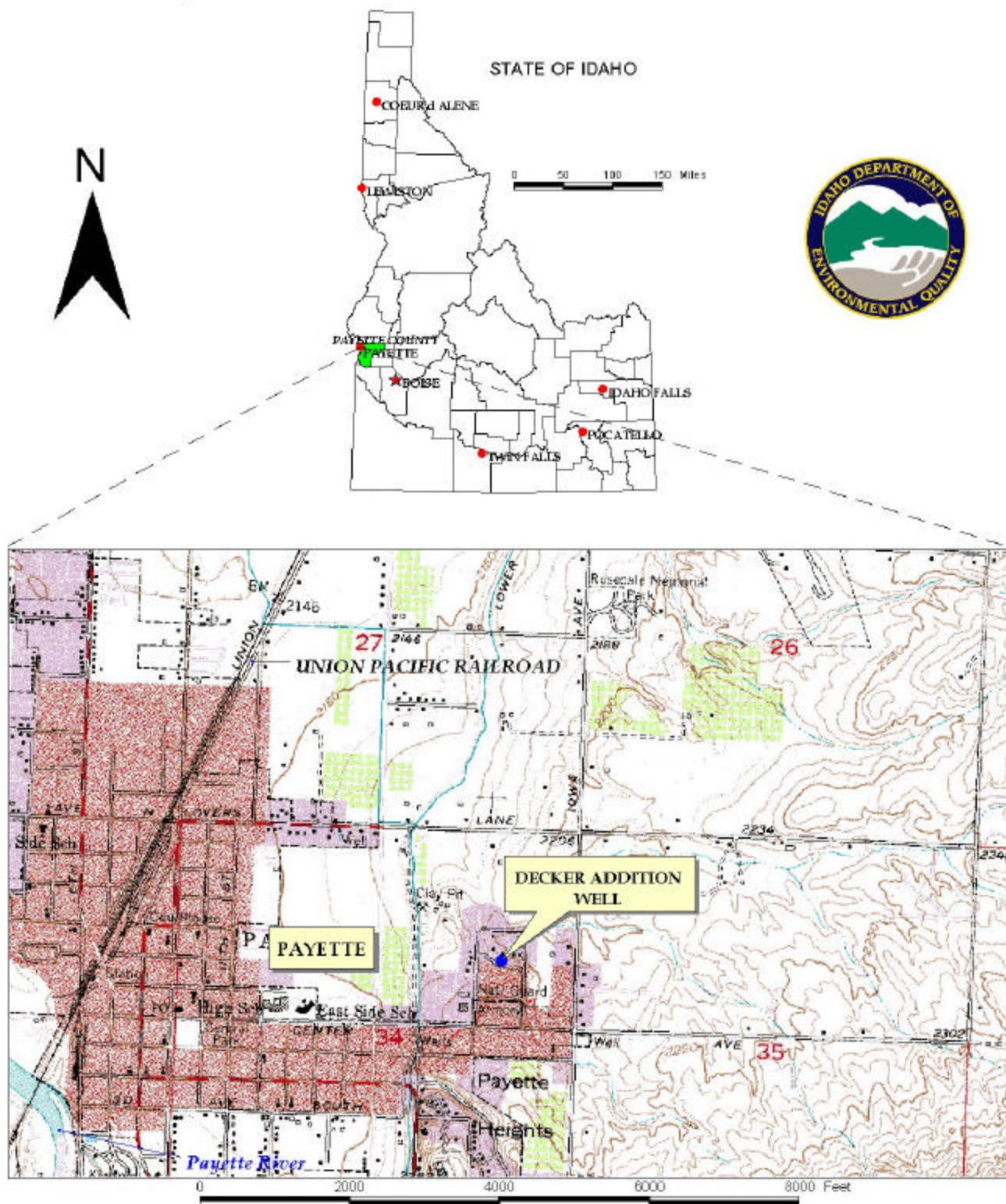
The following sections contain information necessary to understand how and why this assessment was conducted. **It is important to review this information to understand what the ranking of this source means.** A map showing the delineated source water assessment area and the inventory of significant potential sources of contamination identified within that area are attached. The list of significant potential contaminant source categories and their rankings, used to develop this assessment, is also attached.

Level of Accuracy and Purpose of the Assessment

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to assess the over 2,900 public drinking water sources in Idaho for their relative susceptibility to contaminants regulated by the Safe Drinking Water Act. This assessment is based on a land use inventory of the delineated assessment area, sensitivity factors associated with the wells, and aquifer characteristics. All assessments must be completed by May of 2003. The resources and time available to accomplish assessments are limited. Therefore, an in-depth, site-specific investigation to identify each significant potential source of contamination for every public water system is not possible. **This assessment should be used as a planning tool, taken into account with local knowledge and concerns, to develop and implement appropriate protection measures for this source. The results should not be used as an absolute measure of risk and they should not be used to undermine public confidence in the water system.**

The ultimate goal of this assessment is to provide data to local communities to develop a protection strategy for their drinking water supply system. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) recognizes that pollution prevention activities generally require less time and money to implement than treating a public water supply system once it has been contaminated. DEQ encourages communities to balance resource protection with economic growth and development. The decision as to the amount and types of information necessary to develop a source water protection program should be determined by the local community based on its own needs and limitations. Wellhead or source water protection is one facet of a comprehensive growth plan, and it can complement ongoing local planning efforts.

FIGURE 1. Geographic Location of the Decker Addition



Section 2. Conducting the Assessment

General Description of the Source Water Quality

The Decker Addition drinking water system serves a population of 70-75 people with 22-23 connections, and is located within the city limits of Payette, Idaho (Figure 1). The public drinking water system for the Decker Addition is comprised of one well with storage capacity for about 600 gallons.

There are no water quality issues currently facing the Decker Addition. In recent years the well in the drinking water system has not seen any water quality problems.

Defining the Zones of Contribution - Delineation

The delineation process establishes the physical area around a well that will become the focal point of the assessment. The process includes mapping the boundaries of the zone of contribution into time of travel zones (zones indicating the number of years necessary for a particle of water to reach a well) for water in the aquifer. DEQ used a refined computer model approved by the EPA in determining the three-year (Zone 1B), six-year (Zone 2), and ten-year (Zone 3) time-of-travel (TOT) for water associated with the Payette Valley aquifer in the vicinity of the Decker Addition. The computer model used site-specific data, assimilated by DEQ from a variety of sources including the city and other local well logs. The delineated source water assessment area for the Decker Addition can best be described as long, narrow, and arcuate in shape. The shape and orientation is influenced by the pumping of several nearby City of Payette drinking water system wells. The actual data used by DEQ in determining the source water assessment delineation areas are available upon request.

Identifying Potential Sources of Contamination

A potential source of contamination is defined as any facility or activity that stores, uses, or produces, as a product or by-product, the contaminants regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act and has a sufficient likelihood of releasing such contaminants at levels that could pose a concern relative to drinking water sources. The goal of the inventory process is to locate and describe those facilities, land uses, and environmental conditions that are potential sources of ground water contamination. The locations of potential sources of contamination within the delineation areas were obtained by field surveys conducted by DEQ and from available databases.

The dominant land use outside the Decker Addition is urban, including both residential and commercial land use. Land use within the Decker Addition consists of residential homes. Homes within the Decker Addition are connected to the City of Payette sewer system.

It is important to understand that a release may never occur from a potential source of contamination provided best management practices are used at the facility. Many potential sources of contamination are regulated at the federal level, state level, or both to reduce the risk of release. Therefore, when a business, facility, or property is identified as a potential contaminant source, this should not be interpreted to mean that this business, facility, or property is in violation of any local, state, or federal environmental law or regulation.

What it does mean is that the potential for contamination exists due to the nature of the business, industry, or operation. There are a number of methods that water systems can use to work cooperatively with potential sources of contamination, such as educational visits and inspections of stored materials. Many owners of such facilities may not even be aware that they are located near a public water supply well.

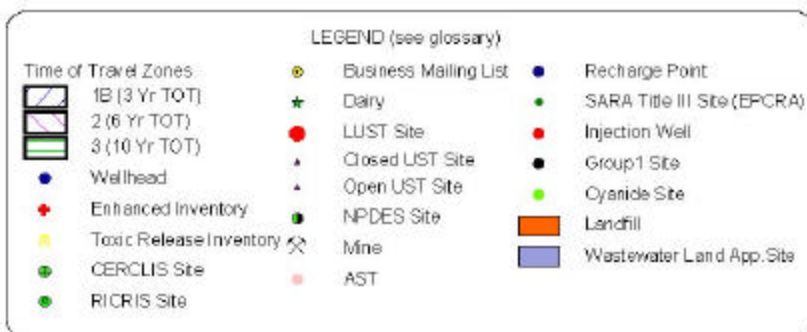
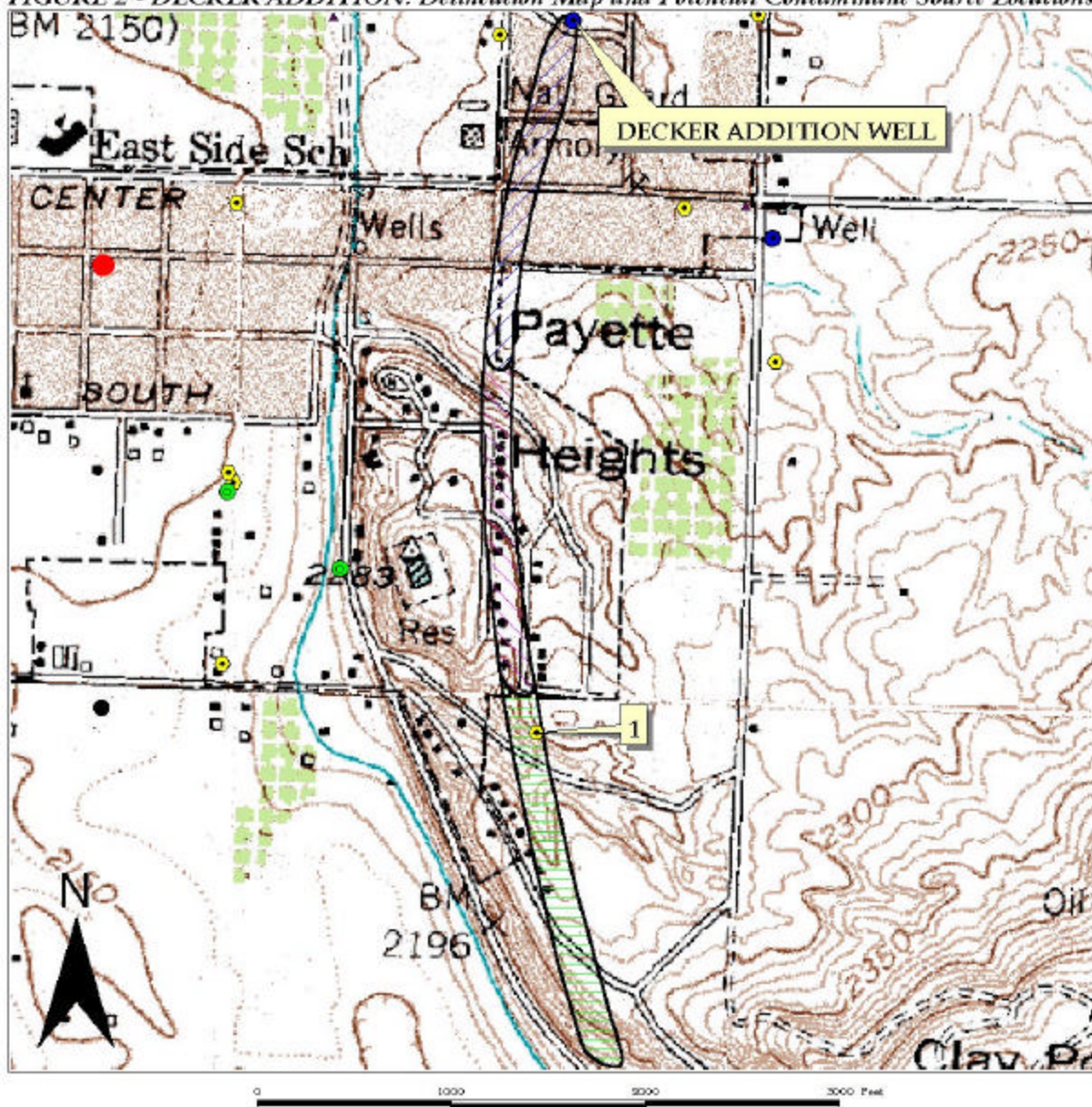
Contaminant Source Inventory Process

A contaminant inventory of the study area was conducted during August 2000. The inventory involved identifying and documenting potential contaminant sources within the Decker Addition Source Water Assessment Area through the use of computer databases and Geographic Information System maps developed by DEQ.

A total of one potential contaminant source was located within the delineated source water areas Table 1) in the ten year TOT zone. This potential contaminant source was a painting business (Figure 2). Because of the proximity of the Decker Addition wells to several City of Payette drinking water wells sources in close proximity to the Decker Addition TOT, identified during the SWA evaluation for the City of Payette system, were evaluated for inclusion in this contaminant inventory.

Contaminants of concern are primarily related to VOC and SOC. Table 1 lists the potential contaminants of concern, time of travel zones, and information source.

FIGURE 2 - DECKER ADDITION: Delineation Map and Potential Contaminant Source Locations
BM 2150)



PWS# 3380004
WELL

Table 1. Decker Addition Potential Contaminant Inventory

SITE #	Source Description	TOT Zone ¹ (years)	Source of Information	Potential Contaminants ²
1	Painter	6-10	Database Search	VOC, SOC

² TOT = time of travel (in years) for a potential contaminant to reach the wellhead

³ IOC = inorganic chemical, VOC = volatile organic chemical, SOC = synthetic organic chemical

Section 3. Susceptibility Analyses

The susceptibility of the well to contamination was ranked as high, moderate, or low risk according to the following considerations: hydrologic characteristics, physical integrity of the well, land use characteristics, and potentially significant contaminant sources. The susceptibility rankings are specific to a particular potential contaminant or category of contaminants. Therefore, a high susceptibility rating relative to one potential contaminant does not mean that the water system is at the same risk for all other potential contaminants. The relative ranking that is derived for each well is a qualitative, screening-level step that, in many cases, uses generalized assumptions and best professional judgement. The following summaries describe the rationale for the susceptibility ranking.

Hydrologic Sensitivity

Hydrologic sensitivity was high. This primarily reflects the lack of information specific to the drinking water system well because no well log was available. Nearby wells in the City of Payette drinking water system with well log information also scored a high rating for hydrologic sensitivity due to the lack of significant clay layers retarding the vertical transport of contaminants.

Well Construction

Well construction directly affects the ability of the wells to protect the aquifer from contaminants. Lower scores imply a system that can better protect the water from near-surface sources of contamination. The Decker Addition drinking water system consists of one well that extracts ground water for domestic uses. The well construction score was moderate, again reflecting the lack of well construction data because no well log was available.

The well in the Decker Addition has an unknown depth, although it is indicated on the sanitary survey that the pump is set at at least 240 feet below ground surface.

The Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) *Well Construction Standards Rules (1993)* require all public water systems (PWSs) follow DEQ standards as well. IDAPA 58.01.08.550 requires that PWSs follow the *Recommended Standards for Water Works (1997)* during construction. Various aspects of the standards can be assessed from well logs. Table 1 of the *Recommended Standards for Water Works (1997)* states that 8-inch steel casing requires a thickness of 0.322 inches, and 12-inch and 16-inch casing requires a thickness of 0.375 inches. The standards state that screen will be installed and have openings based on sieve analysis of the formation. Standard 3.2.4.1 requires all PWSs to have yield and drawdown tests that last “24 hours or until stabilized drawdown has continued for six hours at 1.5 times” (Recommended Standards for Water Works, 1997) the design pumping rate.

Potential Contaminant Source and Land Use

The one well in the Decker Addition system ranked low for potential contaminant sources for all chemical classes and microbial contaminants. There have been no recent historic detections of contaminants above levels of concern.

Final Susceptibility Ranking

In terms of the total susceptibility score, it can be seen from Table 2 that the one Decker Addition well showed a moderate susceptibility for all chemical classes and microbial contaminants, primarily reflecting the high and moderate scores for hydrologic sensitivity and well construction, respectively.

Table 2. Summary of Decker Addition Susceptibility Evaluation

Well	Susceptibility Scores ¹									
	Hydrologic Sensitivity	Contaminant Inventory				System Construction	Final Susceptibility Ranking			
		IOC	VOC	SOC	Microbials		IOC	VOC	SOC	Microbials
1	H	L	L	L	L	M	M	M	M	M

¹H = High Susceptibility, M = Moderate Susceptibility, L = Low Susceptibility

IOC = inorganic chemical, VOC = volatile organic chemical, SOC = synthetic organic chemical

Susceptibility Summary

The Decker Addition drinking water system is not currently threatened by contamination. The well in the Decker Addition system, based on limited information, appears to take its water in whole or in large part from the deeper, semi-confined lacustrine aquifer. The shallow, alluvial aquifer found in the vicinity, which overlies the deeper aquifer, has been demonstrated to be a distinct water-bearing unit in terms of water quality, water yield, and the sources of recharge (IDEQ, 2000; Walker, 1989). The shallow aquifer contains much higher levels of nitrate, lower levels of iron, and higher levels of arsenic than the deeper aquifer. Water yields from the shallow aquifer are significantly higher than from the deeper aquifer. Ground water in the shallow aquifer is recharged primarily from surface water irrigation, direct precipitation, and canal leakage while the sources of recharge to the deeper aquifer are indeterminate but are very likely much older.

Section 4. Options for Source Water Protection

The susceptibility assessment should be used as a basis for determining appropriate new protection measures or re-evaluating existing protection efforts. No matter what the susceptibility ranking a source receives, protection is always important. Whether the source is currently located in a “pristine” area or an area with numerous industrial and/or agricultural land uses that require education and surveillance, the way to ensure good water quality in the future is to act now to protect valuable water supply resources.

An effective source water protection program is tailored to the particular local source water protection area. A community with a fully-developed source water protection program will incorporate many strategies. For the Decker Addition system, source water protection activities should focus on continued maintenance of the wellhead and wellhouse and implementation of practices aimed at minimizing the potential impact of land use activities taking place within the jurisdiction of the Decker Addition. Most of the delineated areas are outside the direct jurisdiction of the Decker Addition system. Source water protection partnerships with state and local agencies and industry groups should be established and are critical to success. Due to the time involved with the movement of ground water, wellhead protection activities should be aimed at long-term management strategies even though these strategies may not yield results in the near term.

Assistance

Public water supplies and others may call the following DEQ offices with questions about this assessment and to request assistance with developing and implementing a local protection plan.

In addition, draft protection plans may be submitted to the DEQ office for preliminary review and comments.

Boise Regional DEQ Office (208) 373-0550

State DEQ Office (208) 373-0502

Website: <http://www2.state.id.us/deq>

Water suppliers serving fewer than 10,000 persons may contact John Bokor, Idaho Rural Water Association, at 1-800-962-3257 for assistance with wellhead protection strategies.

References

Great Lakes-Upper Mississippi River Board of State and Provincial Public Health and Environmental Managers, 1997. "Recommended Standards for Water Works."

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Idaho Division of Environmental Quality, 1994. Ground Water and Soils Reconnaissance of the Lower Payette Area, Payette County, Idaho. Ground Water Quality Technical Report No. 5. Idaho Division of Environmental Quality. December 1994.

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Idaho Department of Water Resources, 1993. Administrative Rules of the Idaho Water Resource Board: Well Construction Standards Rules. IDAPA 37.03.09.

Natural Resources Conservation Service, 1991. Idaho Snake-Payette Rivers Hydrologic Unit Plan of Work. March 1991.

United States Geological Survey, 1986. Quality of Ground Water in the Payette River Basin, Idaho. United States Geological Survey. Water Resources Investigation Report 86-4013.

University of Idaho. 1986. Ground Water Resources in a Portion of Payette County, Idaho. Idaho Water Resources Research Institute. University of Idaho. Moscow, Idaho. April 1986.

Walker, David. 1989. Ground Water Flow Model for the Lower Malheur Basin Near Ontario, Oregon. Master of Science Thesis. Oregon State University. Civil Engineering Department. Corvallis, Oregon. December.

POTENTIAL CONTAMINANT INVENTORY

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

AST (Aboveground Storage Tanks) – Sites with aboveground storage tanks.

Business Mailing List – This list contains potential contaminant sites identified through a yellow pages database search of standard industry codes (SIC).

CERCLIS – This includes sites considered for listing under the **Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA)**. CERCLA, more commonly known as ASuperfund, is designed to clean up hazardous waste sites that are on the national priority list (NPL).

Cyanide Site – DEQ permitted and known historical sites/facilities using cyanide.

Dairy – Sites included in the primary contaminant source inventory represent those facilities regulated by Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and may range from a few head to several thousand head of milking cows.

Deep Injection Well – Injection wells regulated under the Idaho Department of Water Resources generally for the disposal of stormwater runoff or agricultural field drainage.

Enhanced Inventory – Enhanced inventory locations are potential contaminant source sites added by the water system. These can include new sites not captured during the primary contaminant inventory, or corrected locations for sites not properly located during the primary contaminant inventory. Enhanced inventory sites can also include miscellaneous sites added by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) during the primary contaminant inventory.

Floodplain – This is a coverage of the 100year floodplains.

Group 1 Sites – These are sites that show elevated levels of contaminants and are not within the priority one areas.

Inorganic Priority Area – Priority one areas where greater than 25% of the wells/springs show constituents higher than primary standards or other health standards.

Landfill – Areas of open and closed municipal and non-municipal landfills.

LUST (Leaking Underground Storage Tank) – Potential contaminant source sites associated with leaking underground storage tanks as regulated under RCRA.

Mines and Quarries – Mines and quarries permitted through the Idaho Department of Lands.)

Nitrate Priority Area – Area where greater than 25% of wells/springs show nitrate values above 5mg/l.

NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System)

– Sites with NPDES permits. The Clean Water Act requires that any discharge of a pollutant to waters of the United States from a point source must be authorized by an NPDES permit.

Organic Priority Areas – These are any areas where greater than 25 % of wells/springs show levels greater than 1% of the primary standard or other health standards.

Recharge Point – This includes active, proposed, and possible recharge sites on the Snake River Plain.

RICRIS – Site regulated under **Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA)**. RCRA is commonly associated with the cradle to grave management approach for generation, storage, and disposal of hazardous wastes.

SARA Tier II (Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act Tier II Facilities) – These sites store certain types and amounts of hazardous materials and must be identified under the Community Right to Know Act.

Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) – The toxic release inventory list was developed as part of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know (Community Right to Know) Act passed in 1986. The Community Right to Know Act requires the reporting of any release of a chemical found on the TRI list.

UST (Underground Storage Tank) – Potential contaminant source sites associated with underground storage tanks regulated as regulated under RCRA.

Wastewater Land Applications Sites – These are areas where the land application of municipal or industrial wastewater is permitted by IDEQ.

Wellheads – These are drinking water well locations regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act. They are not treated as potential contaminant sources.

NOTE: Many of the potential contaminant sources were located using a geocoding program where mailing addresses are used to locate a facility. Field verification of potential contaminant sources is an important element of an enhanced inventory.

Where possible, a list of potential contaminant sites unable to be located with geocoding will be provided to water systems to determine if the potential contaminant sources are located within the source water assessment area.

Attachment A

Decker Addition Susceptibility Analysis Worksheet

The final scores for the susceptibility analysis were determined using the following formulas:

- 1) VOC/SOC/IOC Final Score = Hydrologic Sensitivity + System Construction + (Potential Contaminant/Land Use x 0.2)
- 2) 2) Microbial Final Score = Hydrologic Sensitivity + System Construction + (Potential Contaminant/Land Use x 0.35)

Final Susceptibility Scoring:

- 0 - 5 Low Susceptibility
- 6 - 12 Moderate Susceptibility
- > 13 High Susceptibility

1. System Construction

SCORE

Drill Date	01/01/1980	
Driller Log Available	NO	
Sanitary Survey (if yes, indicate date of last survey)	YES	1987
Well meets IDWR construction standards	NO	1
Wellhead and surface seal maintained	YES	0
Casing and annular seal extend to low permeability unit	NO	2
Highest production 100 feet below static water level	NO	1
Well located outside the 100 year flood plain	YES	0

Total System Construction Score 4

2. Hydrologic Sensitivity

Soils are poorly to moderately drained	NO	2
Vadose zone composed of gravel, fractured rock or unknown	YES	1
Depth to first water > 300 feet	NO	1
Aquitard present with > 50 feet cumulative thickness	NO	2

Total Hydrologic Score 6

3. Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE 1A

IOC Score	VOC Score	SOC Score	Microbial Score
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Land Use Zone 1A	URBAN/COMMERCIAL	2	2	2	2
Farm chemical use high	NO	0	0	0	
IOC, VOC, SOC, or Microbial sources in Zone 1A	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Total Potential Contaminant Source/Land Use Score - Zone 1A		2	2	2	2

Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE 1B

Contaminant sources present (Number of Sources)	NO	0	0	0	0
(Score = # Sources X 2) 8 Points Maximum		0	0	0	0
Sources of Class II or III leacheable contaminants or	NO	0	0	0	
4 Points Maximum		0	0	0	
Zone 1B contains or intercepts a Group 1 Area	NO	0	0	0	0
Land use Zone 1B	Less Than 25% Agricultural Land	0	0	0	0

Total Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use Score - Zone 1B 0 0 0 0

Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE II

Contaminant Sources Present	NO	0	0	0	
Sources of Class II or III leacheable contaminants or	NO	0	0	0	
Land Use Zone II	Less than 25% Agricultural Land	0	0	0	

Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use Score - Zone II 0 0 0 0

Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE III

Contaminant Source Present	YES	0	1	1	
Sources of Class II or III leacheable contaminants or	YES	0	1	1	
Is there irrigated agricultural lands that occupy > 50% of	NO	0	0	0	

Total Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use Score - Zone III 0 2 2 0

Cumulative Potential Contaminant / Land Use Score 2 4 4 2

4. Final Susceptibility Source Score	10	11	11	11
5. Final Well Ranking	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate